

also am proud to say, that my wife, Fran, and I have had children go through the 4-H program for 24 straight years now, in fact, last year was our eighth and youngest child Anna's first year in 4-H.

4-H clubs have expanded from rural to urban areas, where they provide a new group of kids with essential leadership skills and community service involvement. National 4-H conferences have even become platforms for presidents and other national officials to voice their ideas for agriculture and other policies.

Although today's 4-H organization may be larger than the original 100 members and our communication has increased from town meetings to Internet chat rooms, the organization's principles of Head, Heart, Hands, and Health remain the same. Without question, the lessons and skills 4-H members learn will last a lifetime.

I am pleased to report that in Ohio, 4-H members, Nationwide Insurance, and the Ohio Farm Bureau have teamed together to create a brand new 4-H Center on the campus of The Ohio State University. The groundbreaking ceremony occurred just last month. This new Center will provide research, teaching resources, and service opportunities for youth, adult volunteers, and community organizations. The development of this Center is a result of partnerships, one of the many skills our youth learn through 4-H.

In closing, I take this opportunity to challenge other Senators to become involved in 4-H either as a parent or volunteer. I guarantee it will be one of the most rewarding experiences of their lives.

Mr. FITZGERALD. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the week of October 6 as National 4-H Youth Development Program Week.

The need to provide a quality education and opportunities for our youth is ever-present. In order to ensure that our country continues to progress, we must encourage our youth to take active roles in their schools and their communities.

One hundred years ago, groups of concerned community members organized boys' and girls' agricultural clubs to provide better agricultural education to young people. These clubs adopted a model of learning by doing, and their popularity continued to grow. By addressing the needs of the local community, these small boys and girls clubs rapidly evolved into the National 4-H Program that now can be found in communities across America.

Today, 7 million youth and 50 million 4-H alumni participate in over 1,000 4-H programs, ranging from robotics and biotechnology to skateboarding and agriculture. These programs provide opportunities for youth to participate in innovative programs through which they can develop valuable, lifelong skills.

During my tenure as a U.S. Senator, I have enjoyed meeting with 4-H lead-

ers and members throughout the State of Illinois, and have seen first-hand how the 4-H program has changed the lives of our young people. I have also appreciated the extraordinary dedication that 4-H leaders bring to their clubs.

It was with pride that I cosponsored the resolution submitted by Senator INHOFE and Senator STABENOW declaring the week of October 6 as "National 4-H Youth Development Program Week." I hope that the 4-H program will build on the successes of the last one hundred years and hold true to the 4-H motto "to make the best better" in the years to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO ELECTION JUDGES

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I am pleased today to pay tribute to those Americans who play a very special role in our democracy, the citizens who volunteer to serve as election judges. They work at the polls on Election Day, safeguarding our most precious right as Americans, the right to choose our leaders whom we then trust to govern, legislate on our behalf, and protect our rights and freedoms. Having received training in election laws and rules, judges open and close the polls, making a formidable commitment of time, energy, and stamina to work all day, often from before dawn until after dark. Some judges must promise to remain inside the polling place all day. They distribute ballots, tend to ballot boxes, count ballots, strictly adhering to prescribed procedures to ensure secrecy and accuracy of election materials. The judges process absentee ballots, help voters who require assistance, register new voters, and make certain that only qualified voters are permitted to vote. Recent history has taught us, all too dramatically, how important this process of validation is.

To undertake this form of volunteer service is truly to exercise one's civic responsibility while also facilitating that right and duty for one's fellow citizens. While voters with strong party interests might be drawn to the position, a judge's job is not to influence voters. To be an election judge is to be a citizen-activist on a very basic, very human level. The activities of a judge, although routine, figure among the most rewarding and meaningful that an ordinary citizen can perform. Older Americans, especially retirees, regard it as a welcome way to keep in touch with what's happening in the broader community and to connect with their neighbors.

Election judges are people of character and dedication. The official functions they pledge to perform are honorable and indispensable to our society. On Election Day, November 5th, many thousands of fine Americans will invest their time by fulfilling the role of election judge. We are most fortunate to have these conscientious citizens. I am proud to express my appreciation for their valuable service which makes our form of government work.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### HEALTH CARE HERO

• Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, today I rise to salute Terry O. Finklein, a true healthcare and community hero for Oregon. Terry is the chief executive officer of Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria, OR. Columbia Memorial evolved from the north coast's oldest hospital in 1927, and has served the people of Clatsop County, OR for generations.

Not long ago, Columbia Memorial Hospital was on the brink of closing because of financial problems. Terry arrived at Columbia Memorial in late 1989 and promptly turned the financially troubled hospital around. When you lead a rural hospital, financial heroics are an ongoing necessity.

Over the last decade Terry's accomplishments include implementation of a \$3.5 million dollar hospital building project, successive 3-year JCAHO accreditations, creation of a Home Health Care program and the establishment of a Medicare certified hospice program.

Terry is counted among the pioneers of Oregon's statewide trauma system. He built a helipad on Columbia Memorial's front lawn, something everyone swore "couldn't be done", brought the hospital's Emergency Room and staff up to a standard of excellence that earned the hospital State designation as a Level III Trauma Center, and doubled the size of the ER.

Last year, Terry's community lost the services of five physicians in one week with the closure of a clinic. As most of my colleagues from rural States know, physician recruitment in rural communities is tough. So is the clinic business. In order to ensure that the residents of Clatsop County had access to stable health care, Terry took Columbia Memorial into the non-profit clinic business. He implemented the Columbia Memorial Hospital Women's Center, which is now staffed by three excellent physicians and a certified nurse midwife.

Statistically, Clatsop County's children are an at-risk population. Terry decided to tackle this issue at its roots by administering the Healthy Families program of Clatsop County. This program offers at-risk babies and parents a "how to" helping hand with regular home visits and access to other agencies as needed.

In Clatsop County, 45 percent of the population has incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Combine that with a shortage of physicians, and access to health care becomes a major issue. About a year ago, Terry envisioned a federally funded clinic. "It can't be done," folks said. This time Terry went directly to his community partners for support. He received dozens of letters of support. He funded and implemented research and a grant proposal. He spent, and still spends, hours on project implementation.